

WHEREAS, Since the annual revenue associated with deer hunting in Maryland is ~~more than \$200~~ approximately \$80 million, hunters provide a significant boost to local economies, and their license fees also cover all associated program costs; and

WHEREAS, The increased harvest of deer by hunting is thus necessary for the public interest and to stabilize the deer population and manage it more appropriately; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article - Natural Resources

10-405.

(a) (1) Pursuant to § 10-205 of this title, the Department shall establish by regulation and publish by July 1 each year the open season[, excepting Sundays,] to hunt [the] forest and upland game birds and mammals.

(2) EXCEPT AS PROVIDED UNDER §§ 10-410 AND ~~10-415.1~~ 10-415 OF THIS SUBTITLE, THE DEPARTMENT MAY NOT AUTHORIZE HUNTING ON SUNDAY.

~~10-415.1~~ 10-415.

(A) (1) IN THIS SECTION THE FOLLOWING WORDS HAVE THE MEANINGS INDICATED.

(2) "CARRYING CAPACITY" MEANS THE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF DEER THAT CAN:

(I) BE SUPPORTED BY THE AVAILABLE HABITAT; AND

(II) COEXIST COMPATIBLY WITH THE LOCAL HUMAN POPULATION.

(3) "DEER" INCLUDES:

(I) WHITE-TAILED AND SIKA DEER; AND

(II) ANTLERED AND ANTLERLESS DEER.

(4) "URBAN MANAGEMENT REGION" INCLUDES:

(I) ANNE ARUNDEL, BALTIMORE, CAROLINE, CARROLL, CECIL, FREDERICK, HARFORD, HOWARD, KENT, MONTGOMERY, ~~AND~~ PRINCE GEORGE'S, QUEEN ANNE'S, SOMERSET, TALBOT, WICOMICO, AND WORCESTER COUNTIES;

(II) BALTIMORE CITY AND THE CITY OF FREDERICK; AND

(III) THAT PORTION OF FREDERICK COUNTY THAT IS LOCATED SOUTH OF INTERSTATE 70 AND EAST OF U.S. ROUTE 15.